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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1903

REPLY VAN WINKLE.

Before he gives any more interviews on the general subject of possible liquor legislation, we would urge Mr. Bascom Stimp to take a day or two off from the duties of chairmanship and acquaint himself with the elementary facts of recent history. On this fairly important topic his mind is at present a rare storehouse of assorted misinformation and random gropings. At Norfolk yesterday and again at Washington he displayed an ignorance that can hardly fail to be mortifying to the party he is now engaged in leading to more or less glorious defeat.

The kernel of Mr. Stimp's deplorable confusion is found in his conception that Judge Mann's attitude toward a possible prohibition movement is enveloped in some kind of mystery. He conceives that the object of Speaker Byrd's recent remarks about liquor legislation was to interpret Judge Mann's attitude to the people, an attitude to which otherwise there was no sort or form of clue. He intimates, with a knowing air, that really this will not do at all, and openly hints that he is going to place Judge Mann in an embarrassing position "unless the latter declares himself squarely on the liquor question." And finally, to indicate his ideal of what a square declaration ought to be, he unburdens himself of this luminous pearl, conveyed to us through a dispatch in yesterday's News Leader:

Let the press of the State ask Judge Mann specifically if he would veto a resolution passed by the next Legislature of Virginia, submitting to the qualified voters of the State the question of State-wide prohibition. Ascertaining from him a definite reply, "yes" or "no," which no one has yet been able to secure.

The Times-Dispatch is a journal which finds its chief happiness in disseminating knowledge where there is some dearth of it, and injecting information into a great void. Therefore it has pleasure in informing Mr. Stimp that the press of the State asked Judge Mann this question in February last, and that he, Mr. Stimp, is hopelessly astray in asserting that "no one has yet been able to secure" any definite reply from the judge. The judge's reply, in fact, was very definite indeed. Let us give it in his own words:

Should I be elected Governor of Virginia, and should the Legislature during my term of office pass an act submitting the question of State-wide prohibition to the vote of the people, recognizing, as I do, the right of the people to pass upon all matters pertaining to their interest, I would sign the bill.

Judge Mann made this statement first in his opening speech, delivered at Petersburg on March 15 last. During the course of his canvass, he repeated it again and again. On Monday, at Woodstock, he repeated it once more. Those who have managed to remain unaware of these facts would be wise not to venture upon speculations about the liquor situation. In essaying to discuss what they know not of, they needlessly obstruct the forum, clutter up the view for the rest of us and jolly disturb the converse of the well-informed.

If Mr. Stimp has been plunged in a Rip Van Winkle slumber for the past eight months, we should urge him to lose no time in getting abreast of the times. He has noted, he says, that one or two newspapers state that Judge Mann is "implicitly committed" against reference of the prohibition question to the people. If there are such papers, they are those which share Mr. Stimp's own unhappy ignorance. Not the faintest shadow of mystery, not the dimmest trace of secrecy or doubt, belongs to Judge Mann's position on this point. It is, and has been from the beginning, as clear as the noonday. One gubernatorial candidate there is, indeed, whose position remains as dark as Egypt, and that is Captain Kent. The question here, as we have before remarked, is of academic interest only. But if Mr. Stimp, stirring on an elbow and husily rubbing his half-opened eyes, desires to quiz anybody, we consider that he ought to find the quizzing good on his own side of the fence.

BARRING THE AUTOMOBILE.

Bath county has declared war against the automobile through an act of its supervisors closing several much-traveled highways to these rapidly multiplying conveyances. Authority for this move is apparently found in a statute giving supervisors the right to protect roads from "encroachment or obstruction from any improper or exceptionally injurious use." Whether the automobile fairly comes under any of these heads the courts will now be asked to decide.

Meantime it seems that pretty Bath county is trying to turn back the hands of the clock and set its face against the tide of progress. Horses and automobiles can be made to grow fond of each other. They learn to lie down together like the lion and the lamb of the millennium; and the whizzing motor traffic, though not helpful to road surfaces, is generally found to pay for

itself in various ways. For better or worse, the self-propelled car is the road vehicle of the future, as surely as Trevithick's five-mile-per-hour steam wonder of 1804 was to turn into the universal transportation system of a hundred years later.

DECREASED FARM VALUES AND THE RUSH TO THE CITIES.

New York State is waking up to the fact that the worst enemy of the farm is the man who leaves it. That State is also discovering that the wild rush to the cities has stripped the soil of the necessary workers, and has seriously reduced the value of farm lands. This condition of affairs was forcibly driven home by James J. Hill, in a speech to which we referred some days ago. Mr. Hill noted the surprising fact that the emigration from the country to the cities had decreased the value of lands in the famous Mohawk Valley more than 75 per cent. Farm lands that brought from \$100 to \$150 a few years ago are now going for less than \$25 to \$30. None will buy where there are no farm hands to hire. Virginia has as yet escaped such extreme results, but it cannot be denied that this State has severely felt the effects of the movement cityward. The fact that 35 out of 100 counties show an actual decrease in population at the last census sharply indicated the growing tendency to forsake the country districts.

The opportunity which the country boy loses when he leaves the farm is but one result of the drift toward the congested centers. The movement means a positive loss to the State and a decrease both in farm values and in agricultural production. Almost without exception, the value of farm lands has fallen in counties where the young men have gone in numbers to the cities. Under most favorable conditions, the increase in value in these counties has been very small.

For example, we cite at random the counties of Essex, Montgomery, King William and Bedford. Each of these counties, at the last census, showed a marked decrease in population. Each of them to-day shows a decrease in the taxable value of farm properties. The connection between the two is obvious. Essex lands, for example, were valued, under assessment, at \$3.69 in 1895, and stand on the land books to-day at worth but \$3.64. In Montgomery the assessable value of lands has fallen in the same period from \$5.01 per acre to \$4.76. In Bedford the average value of farm property to-day, from the tax books, has not increased a cent in fifteen years, and in King William there has been a decrease in taxable values. It is noticeable, also, that in the counties which have suffered most from the rush to the cities there has been a decrease in the taxable acreage of the counties. In King William, for example, the books show a decrease of 5,236 acres of taxable lands, while the decrease in Bedford reaches 2,644 acres.

These figures teach no uncertain lesson. The man who sends his son to the city is voluntarily decreasing the value of his property. The boy who leaves the farm to make his fortune in the city depreciates his heritage and reduces his own patrimony.

A STRONG MAN GONE.

Nothing is finer about this country, nor could anything be finer about any country, than the freedom of the opportunity it offers to the individual. It is denied sometimes that we do offer this opportunity, but it is here to-day as real and sound and true as it ever was. No straying from ideals has at any marred the old maxim that any American boy has his chance to "be President." We can still draw our overmen from the humblest beginnings, still measure them, not by their point of origin, but by the heights to which they have risen. Still the log-cabin frontpiece appears, and will continue to appear, in many a biography. And here, this morning, we shall find the press of the whole country pausing to do reverence to the memory of a man who made just such a start, the distinguished and honored son of a washerwoman.

From what has been printed of John A. Johnson, we conceive him to have been truly, in the showman phrase, one of nature's noblemen. He never became at all puffed up with a sense of the personal distinction he had achieved. He was as simple as Governor of a great State as he was in the days when he carried the baskets of laundry home to the quality. When he was in Washington just before the Denver convention last year, at a moment when the eye of the country was on him as a possible presidential nominee, reporters found him happily seated before a quick-lunch counter, the distinguished and honored son of a washerwoman.

An interesting question arises. What would the editors have put in all those columns if both Cook and Peary had died in infancy?

In England \$200,000 has been raised to go and find the South Pole on, which only shows. In America at the present moment we are appraising the South Pole at about \$1.75.

Mr. Taft is a strong man, but we are trembling for his digestion.

MORE TROUBLE FOR MARK.

Humorist Ordered to Part With His Beloved Extra Pines.

Mark Twain's physician has ordered him, it is reported, to limit his pipes to four a day. The great humorist is, however, seventy-three years old and the rule applied to him may not fit all. It is difficult, indeed, to get a rule that fits a habit in all persons. One asks a smoker he will get as many opinions as he approaches individuals. Some smoke four pipes a day, and some forty. Each man smokes, apparently, as many as he wants to and no count is kept.

The place where the smoker should smoke is another problem. The wife who considers the hearth foolish, as we have already said, renders it uncomfortable. The problem is the smoker's own problem, and to his tact and wisdom all the problems connected with the habit must naturally be committed. Birmingham Age-Herald.

THE OBSERVANT PARAGRAPHERS.

There is much surprise in some quarters that the President should give important public appointments to expert statisticians instead of to political bosses. It appears to be one of Mr. Taft's strange ways.—New York Evening Mail.

The newspapers never knew what was meant by "a dash for the pole" until they tried to print some of the things the explorers said of each other.—Baltimore News.

Baseball has been introduced in Berlin, but whether the German language is adapted to correction of the erring umpire has not been determined.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Mr. Peary says the "Roosevelt" filed the bill, "never thought otherwise."—Atlanta Constitution.

New fifteen thousand of the paragraphers are asking if the men who live double lives are asked twice in the census.—Florida Times-Union.

"Stolen Jingle."

(Dedicated to Barton Heights and printed on suffering from rheumatism.)

Reuben, Reuben, I've been thinking
What a lot of work this world is;
If all the rivers in creation
Were as salty as the sea.

Rachel, Rachel, I've been thinking
That this world would be queer,
For then the men would all drink beer,
And the women would all drink beer.

J. MILTON, JR.

IRELAND'S OLD HOME YEAR.

Sons of Erin Expected to Visit Emerald Isle Next Summer.

Old-home celebrations have been held in many of the States and cities of this country, and this fact, partly inspired, the suggestion of a reunion in Ireland, the birthplace of the Irish residents of other lands, a general pilgrimage of these to be made to the Emerald Isle next year. It is said that the wealthy and influential members of the Irish-American community in the United States and other countries are planning to visit Ireland, but the vast majority have not seen the shores of the "old country" since the day they took ship for America. It is estimated that there are two millions of people of Irish birth in the United States and other countries who are of the Irish-American community.

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Borrowed Jingles.

THE FALL.

Vacation time is done for good. The wheels are turning round. Or work is being done. Past are the idle lounging days. Past is the time of play and jokes. And so are the folks. And so are the folks.

These first fall days are not so bright. When year of work begins, or when we must pay the cost. Or when we must pay the cost. Or when we must pay the cost.

MERELY JOKING.

The Tramp: "Ah, mister, what would you do if you felt like you didn't have a friend in the world?"

The Public Man: "What would I do? Why, I'd apply for a job as a base ball umpire, of course."—Chicago News.

SUCH IS LIFE.

"Did you ever think of what you would do if you were rich?"

"I've thought about it, but I don't want to be rich."—Houston Chronicle.

Other Opportunities.

"I think I'll drop wheat and corn," remarked the bull operator, "and turn my attention to less crowded fields."

"Well, for instance, it doesn't seem to be any trick at all to start an upward market in violets."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

No Obstacle.

"What's to prevent me from kissing you?" demanded the man.

"The goodness," exclaimed the girl. "But it didn't—Pittsburg Post."

Sounds Appealing.

"I would like to have any preference as to a textile factory."

"I should think cheesebrot would make a tasty cake," responded the other party to the conversation.—Kansas City Journal.

"When a Man's Married."

Her (reading): "And so they were married, and that was the last of their troubles."

Him (sotto voce): "Last, but not least!"—Cleveland Leader.

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The Courts of Europe

By La Marquise de Fontenoy.

Good Will of Emperor.
In spite of all the statements to the contrary issued by the revolutionaries, as well as the Russian press, the Emperor has both prior and subsequent to his accession to the throne manifested sympathy and good will towards the Jews, and it is a pity that the Muccevo government has never taken the trouble to secure the case of the Jews of the Hebrew race in Russia—that is to say, from the men who occupy there the same position as the Rothschilds in Western Europe. As for instance, Jacob Schiff in the United States—a statement to this effect. It would have been more to the advantage of the effect produced abroad by the exaggerated stories and the oft purely imaginary tales of the Jews' oppression of the Jewish race.

Nicholas is, indeed, far more enlightened in this respect than his government and his people. Thus, having had it brought to his notice that the law had been invoked against the rights of residence outside the Pale, the Emperor issued a decree directing that, by virtue of his prerogative of clemency, the Pale laws were to be suspended in the case of the Jews concerned and that they were to be permitted to continue living and transacting their business in Moscow without any let or hindrance. This edict affects some 200 Jewish families of the better class in Moscow, who, if the law had been executed, would have been compelled to leave the city and to abandon their interests there—interests representing, according to a conservative estimate, some \$50,000,000. The Emperor likewise initiated some three years ago a movement for reforming in a far more liberal and enlightened sense the laws in Russia concerning the Jews. At his instance Premier Stolypin drew up a bill embodying numerous concessions to the Jews. This bill, signed by all the ministers, was introduced by Nicholas with his signature and the Emperor's name on the Duma. But the Duma, which represents public opinion in Russia, has not yet seen fit to take up the matter.

The bill does not yet comprise complete emancipation of the Jews on equal terms with the remainder of the population, but aims at eliminating a list of oppressive regulations in connection with the right of residence of the Jews outside the Pale, granting the right to take up residence in any part of the Empire, and in the towns in which they permanently reside, for allowing the participation by Jews in the management of public utilities, companies and freedom to embark in various trades and manufactures from which they have hitherto been barred. It is a bill which, if the Duma passes it, will be accepted thankfully by the Jews of Russia as a step in the right direction and as paving the way for more and more considerable reforms.

Let me add that in Roumania the Jews are not more badly treated than in Russia. Although we hear little about the matter abroad, Brătianu, the Roumanian premier, and son of the statesman who was the principal co-operator of King Charles in the creation of modern Roumania, in discussing the matter the other day, put the matter in a different light. He said that the question is for us neither a problem of race nor of religion. It is more of an economic problem, which makes itself particularly acute in the years of harvest in Roumania. In Roumania it is the same. It is a problem not of race, nor of creed, but purely economic. The Jews are so much cleverer and brighter in all business matters than the ordinary Roumanian that it is necessary that the government should provide for the latter's protection against what might become a Hebrew monopoly.

It is fortunate for the bride of Lieutenant Richard Williams Bulkeley that Queen Victoria is no longer on the throne, for her, too, was weary of the increasing number of runaway marriages during the last three decades of her reign. It is a decree of the House of Commons, passed in 1894, that no man or woman under the age of twenty-one should be allowed to marry without the consent of the parents or guardians. Since Edward VII. succeeded to the throne that Lady Lilian Boyd, sister of the present Earl of Devonport, has been able to go to court, the fact that she had made a runaway match with Captain William Arthur Boyd, formerly of the 1st Life Guards, was a laughing stock in the way of her presentation, after her marriage, to Queen Victoria.

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STATE PRESS

Judge Mann's Opening Speech.

Judge Mann's opening speech of the campaign, delivered at Culpeper yesterday, was excellent style and temper. It was pitched upon a high plane, well constructed and admirably arranged. As a whole, it was a comprehensive review of the issues of the campaign and an able, convincing presentation of the Democratic viewpoint. Certainly, Democrats have every reason to be satisfied with their leader's strong and trenchant appeal to the conservatism and sound sense of the Virginia public, while the enemy will doubtless find it a blow upon their morale, calculated to stagger and dismay.—Lynchburg News.

Railroad Extension in Virginia.

With the proposed new railroad from Clifton Forge to Keyser, Va., and the Baltimore and Ohio extended from Lexington through to Manokee or Man, a rich section of the two Virginias will be developed. No man is justified in closing his eyes to the fact that railroads are great business builders, and what is more, they are referred to in operation, this section of Virginia will surely reap a benefit not easily estimated. The trade of Highland county, which is one of the poorest in the State, would naturally come to Clifton Forge after the completion of this new railroad. In addition to this there would be a great revival in the iron and lumber industry along the route of the new road. We hope the business men of this city will keep in touch with the promoters of the new railroad, to the end that this city will be made one of the terminals.—Clifton Forge Review.

Mann's Speech Disposes of Kent's Charges.

It deals exhaustively with Captain Kent's charges and insinuations, and disposes of them so convincingly and so completely that the Republican candidate will make himself an object of ridicule and reproach if he persists in their repetition and promulgation. The speech is not only a complete refutation of the Republican candidate's arraignment of the Democracy of Virginia, but it is a splendid vindication of the Democratic party's administration of the State affairs through Reconstruction and Readjustment, which were the most trying periods in our State's history.—Petersburg Index-Appel.

Wants Swanson to Keep Off the Stump.

We are very friendly with Captain Swanson and for that reason, if for no other, we should dislike to see him go on the stump in a rough and tumble political campaign.

Tariff and Industrial Conditions in England

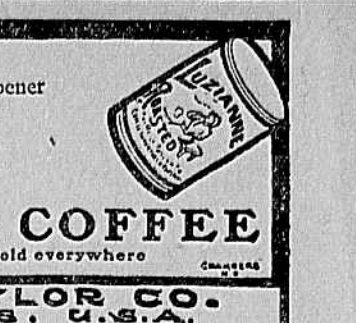
By ZACH MCGHEE.

BRADFORD, YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND, September 4.—The editor of the leading afternoon paper here yesterday published an editorial in which he said that the only American I have seen who is not here to visit old abbeys and castles, walls. I have told them all that I have seen. I have told them all that I have seen. I have told them all that I have seen.

Now one would not suppose from what I have just written that while I am sitting in old Sam Johnson's chair, well, I am, in the one the only chair in the room, not from the fact that I am sitting in the chair, but from the fact that I am sitting in the chair.

And here am I, writing in this same chair. In the Museum, or in the home of some "Juke" or lord? Not at all, but before the fire in my land, which is the dining room, I am sitting in the chair, well, I am, in the one the only chair in the room, not from the fact that I am sitting in the chair, but from the fact that I am sitting in the chair.

And now I will attend to you, "patron reader," for you are wondering how it happens that the daughter of a manufacturer allows me to sit in her kitchen, and how it comes that she takes boarders. Manufacturing in England must be at a pretty low ebb, and I am sure that the daughter of a manufacturer allows me to sit in her kitchen, and how it comes that she takes boarders. Manufacturing in England must be at a pretty low ebb, and I am sure that the daughter of a manufacturer allows me to sit in her kitchen, and how it comes that she takes boarders.



We can see no occasion for it. Mr. Kent has developed no such ability as a campaigner as to call into requisition the services of Governor Swanson. He is abundantly able to take care of his own candidacy, and no particular reason has been assigned why Governor Swanson should be brought into the campaign. Those who are not especially friendly to the Governor are already assigning reasons of their own. That sort of talk will go on, and there will be more talk of the same sort.—Newport News Times-Herald.

Virginia's Neglected Rivers.

Sir,—While standing on the shore of the York River the other day this thought came to me: Is there another State in the Union that has such a river as Virginia that would not be a place of heavy traffic and deep water? The largest ocean-going vessels of a ton and can come up the port of West Point, on both sides. Pamunkey and Mattaponi Rivers are deep water, fine dockage, with a clean bill to the outside world.

As for the river doing for commerce? The writer counted three sail vessels, one tug and six motor boats, and a steamer plying daily to West Point. The oyster industry does not seem to be much. All gone, like the Colonial past. What is the matter? Twenty-five years ago West Point was an important port of entry—same water, same deep channel, same outlet, is the Atlantic Ocean. The oyster grounds are the same, but the planters live at West Point and but few oysters are planted. Sail vessels seem now to be the only craft that come up the York River. I am reliably told that on the Rappahannock River conditions are different. Steamers ply daily to Washington, D. C., Baltimore and Norfolk, thriving villages dot the banks of the mighty river, and the shippers have access to the world, but those who live on the banks of the great York have to content themselves with only Baltimore.

Can you give reasons why the York River is left alone in its mighty grandeur and beauty? Is it the lack of commerce to the shores of the Old Dominion through the open gate of the Chesapeake Bay? My impression is that a big bar is near the mouth of the river, and has been growing larger year by year because shipping has ceased to do it. I don't know of our moneyed men start importing and put on a line of ocean steamers to South America, or to the West Indies. The business can be had? THOUGHTFUL. Toano, September 20.

Children Cry

FOR FLETCHER'S

CASTORIA

SEE THE OCTOPUS.

See the greatest octopus, or devil fish, St. Anthony's Cemetery, Army Seventh and Marshall Streets. It's a curiosity seldom seen in this section of the country, and it's an attraction for the children and grown-up folks to see. The octopus is 10 feet long from tip of claw and 6 feet down its back. Look at its tentacles and how it makes the devil fish a sea monster feared by watermen.

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